

Message

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Environment -
Environment & Energy
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To: Duffy, Rick
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Environment Bills Up in
House • 'Excellent
Chance' for Water Bill
• Nuclear Pep Talk

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Energy, Environment Bills Up in House • 'Excellent Chance' for Water Bill • Nuclear Pep Talk



By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

The House is scheduled to pass more than three dozen bills, including measures dealing with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and other energy and environment matters.

The bills are being considered under an expedited process that bars amendments, limits debate to 40 minutes, and requires a two-thirds majority for passage. They include:

- A bill that would enable the Energy Department to conduct a pilot program to lease as much as 200 million barrels of underused Strategic Petroleum

Reserve storage to private entities or foreign governments. Any products stored under a lease wouldn't be considered part of the SPR.

- A bill that would require the NRC to provide more information about its spending and implement a new cost recovery system. Illinois GOP Rep. Adam Kinzinger, the bill's sponsor, said it would "create more certainty for nuclear plant operations, without compromising safety, and encourage greater investment for the next generation of nuclear power."
- A bill that would enable the Energy Department to continue to operate the Cheney Disposal Cell in Colorado, a disposal site for residual radioactive material.
- A bill that would reauthorize New York's West Valley Demonstration Project to dispose of high-level liquid nuclear waste at a level of \$75 million annually from fiscal 2019 through 2025.

'Excellent Chance' for Water Bill: Things are looking good for a catch-all water policy bill that would affect everything from drinking water quality to disaster relief. Sen. John Thune told reporters Monday that the Senate could vote as soon as Wednesday on the measure, Bloomberg Government's [Shaun Courtney](#) reports.

The bill, which [passed the House](#) earlier this month by voice vote, was negotiated by both parties in both chambers of Congress.

Sen. John Boozman is optimistic about the bill's chances in the Senate: "We have an excellent chance of getting it done," he told Bloomberg Government's [Katherine Scott](#).

NUCLEAR PEP TALK: Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists will talk at a forum about nuclear energy's future—on the heels of an MIT paper suggesting advanced reactors will be needed to address climate change.

The MIT study [said](#) a new generation of small, modular reactors that can be built with standardized designs and safety features could spell relief for the ailing nuclear industry in America and Europe. It advised regulators to earmark locations for investors to test prototype technologies.

"As of today and for decades to come, the main value of nuclear energy lies in its potential contribution to de-carbonizing the power sector," the MIT scientists concluded. [Bobby Magill](#) is covering the forum.

SENATE GETS WONKY: The Senate's energy panel is delving into the wonky topic of quantum information science.

Quantum technology—which enables computers to run millions of times faster than current ones—is still an emerging field. But proponents see it having the potential to usher in many scientific breakthroughs.

The Senate hearing follows an Energy Department announcement yesterday of \$218 million in funding for 85 research awards in the area. The House also passed a bill earlier this month to create a federal program for fostering the development of quantum computing that awaits Senate action, while the White House held a summit yesterday on quantum computing with IBM Corp. and other companies. [Rebecca Kern](#) is covering the hearing.

OTHER STORIES WE'RE COVERING

- [Climate Week NYC](#) continues with sessions on constructing fuel-efficient cities that are also resilient to climate change; the state of corporate climate leadership; and what Finland can teach the rest of the world. Bloomberg News is monitoring.
- The EPA and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration hold the second of [three public hearings](#) this week on proposed revisions to the fuel economy standard in Dearborn, Mich. Bloomberg News is monitoring.
- The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) and Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) [hold](#) the Solar Power International conference in Anaheim, Calif. Bloomberg News is tracking.
- The Center for Creative Land Recycling hosts a [national summit](#) on reusing contaminated and abandoned property. [Sylvia Carignan](#) is covering.
- The Monsanto Roundup cancer trial—which has more than 900 plaintiffs—is scheduled for Feb. 25 in San Francisco.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Claims that glyphosate has a negative impact on honeybees are simply not true.”

—Bayer AG communications representative Charla Lord, [rejecting](#) a study that honeybees become more susceptible to disease—and eventually die—after their gut bacteria is exposed to the main ingredient in the company's Roundup herbicide.

AROUND THE WEB



A recycler drags a huge bag of paper sorted for recycling past a heap of non-recyclable material at a Bulawayo, Zimbabwe landfill in June.

Photographer: Zinyanga Auntony/AFP/Getty Images

- Global waste is expected to rise by 70 percent from current levels by 2050 unless urgent action is taken.
- Only India fares worse than the U.S. when it comes to future economic costs from climate change, a new study says.
- An Illinois House member is urging the EPA to address public concerns about ethylene oxide emissions from a plant that sterilizes medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and food products.

TODAY'S EVENTS

- **All Day • Natural Resources** • Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Management Group in cooperation with George Washington University Law School holds symposium on natural resources law and science.
- **8 a.m. • Net-Zero Energy** • New Buildings Institute presents a workshop on achieving net-zero energy.
- **8:30 a.m. • Clean Energy** • Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) hosts media briefing with clean energy business leaders who will discuss their perspectives on their industry's challenges and advantages. The group also will discuss a new energy-efficiency jobs report.
- **9 a.m. • ESA** • Resources for the Future holds forum on the Endangered Species Act.
- **9:30 a.m. • Energy Investment** • Center on Global Energy Policy presents a discussion on energy investments around the world.
- **10 a.m. • Energy Security** • Jamestown Foundation holds a conference on energy security in the Baltic region.
- **2 p.m. • Carbon** • Massachusetts Institute of Technology engineer Howard Herzog discusses his new book on the state of carbon capture storage and technology.

- **4 p.m. • Costello** • Pennsylvania GOP Rep. Ryan Costello [holds town hall](#) at Georgetown University as part of National Clean Energy Week.
- **5 p.m. • Chao** • Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao [speaks](#) at banquet as part of National Clean Energy Week.

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